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THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 1 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the letter dated 1 June 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mate Granic, addressed to your Excellency (see annex).

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under item 92 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 1 June 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General

At the time of your preparation of the report on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), pursuant to Security Council resolution 994 (1995) of 17 May 1995, I would like to express that the Government of the Republic of Croatia is seriously concerned with the most recent joint initiatives by the political leadership of the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs aimed at forming the so-called "United Serbian Republic" that would be comprised of the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia and the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Serb control.

My Government is of the view that this poses a serious threat to the peace process both in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and serves as a threat to the peace and stability of the region as a whole. "Unification" of the Serb-occupied territories constitutes a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and negates the international community's peace initiatives, which are based on full respect for the territorial integrity of these two Member States of the United Nations. This "unification" would be a direct violation of relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and would put the Republic of Croatia in a position where it would be forced to undertake all appropriate means to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In order to prevent this situation from developing, UNCRO has to implement speedily its mandate by controlling those parts of Croatia's international borders that are not under the effective control of the legitimate Croatian authorities. Implementation of the UNCRO mandate would, therefore, act as a deterrent to the "unification". In that regard, the Republic of Croatia would support urgent action by the Security Council aimed at preventing actions which would lead to an escalation of the conflict in the region.

Further, it is the view of the Croatian Government that the issue of alleviation of the sanctions regime imposed on the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" without taking into consideration the situation in Croatia and the role of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" in maintaining a state of occupation over a part of Croatian territory would have a detrimental effect on the peace process in the region. Security Council resolution 871 (1993) of 4 October 1993 placed a direct connection with the sanctions regime and the role of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" in the occupation of Croatian territory. In this regard, the Republic of Croatia has presented, inter alia, documentation on the direct involvement of the "Army of Yugoslavia" in the occupied territories of Croatia (S/1995/229 and S/1995/401).

My Government applauds any moves by the Belgrade authorities by which it would distance itself from the local Serb authorities in Knin and Pale.

However, we are also of the view that Belgrade's recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina would not by itself lead to a change in the actual situation on the ground. Lifting of sanctions should be based on actual results and not on proclamations. Furthermore, any possible lifting of sanctions imposed on the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" which would not involve resolution of the conflict in Croatia on the basis of respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity would leave the major problem in the region unsolved, leaving the potential for a greater conflict in the future which could have repercussions in the entire region.

My Government is concerned that the lifting of sanctions against the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" would not only eliminate international leverage on the authorities in Belgrade but would also encourage the Belgrade authorities to seek the unification of all lands which are occupied or controlled by Serbs. This would not only violate the principle of territorial integrity of States - an underlying principle of the United Nations - but would also threaten peace and stability in the region.

(Signed) Mate GRANIC
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs